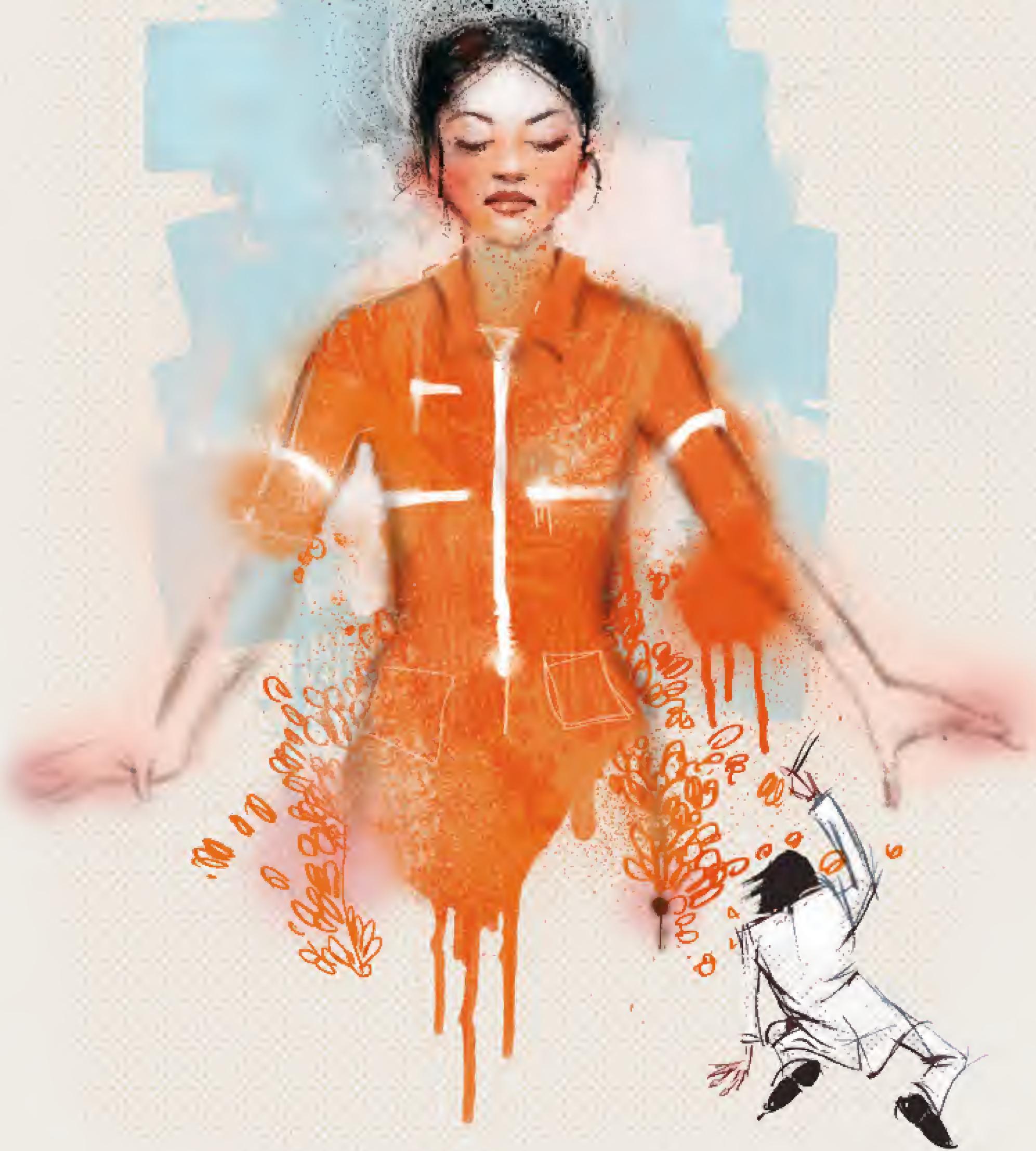


PORTAL 2:

LAB

RAT





REALITY IS A STORY THE MIND TELLS ITSELF.

AN ARTIFICIAL STRUCTURE CONJURED INTO BEING BY THE CALCIUM ION EXCHANGE OF A MILLION SYNAPTIC FIRINGS.

A TRUTH SO STRANGE IT CAN ONLY BE LIED INTO EXISTENCE.

AND OUR MINDS CAN LIE. NEVER DOUBT IT...

HEAR THE TURRET FOR ITS KNELL

TENACITY

THE BELL

SUMMONS TO HEAVEN OR TO HELL

19.2%

36%

WHAT'S THIS? REAL, OR
JUST MY LYING MIND AGAIN?

CAN SHE TRULY BE AWAKE
AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

NO, JUST A FIGMENT.
IF SHE WERE REAL,
THE TURRETS WOULD
SEE HER, TOO.



...over

FEELING A TRIAL

over

over

over

TARGET ACQUIRED.

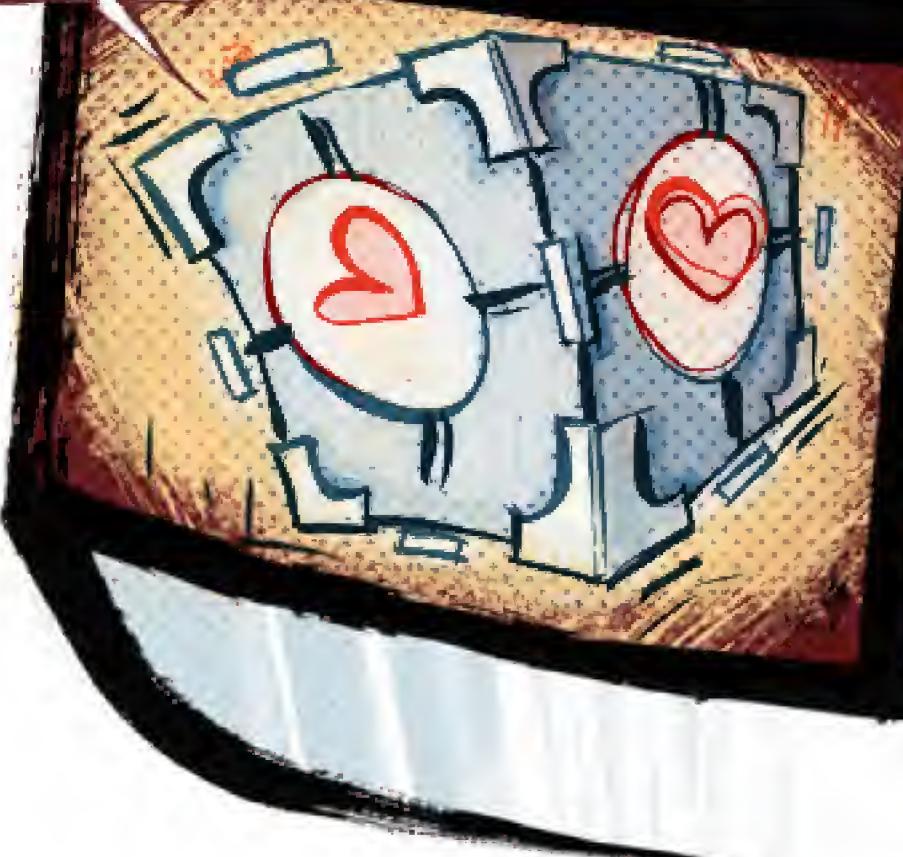
THUDDA
THUDDA

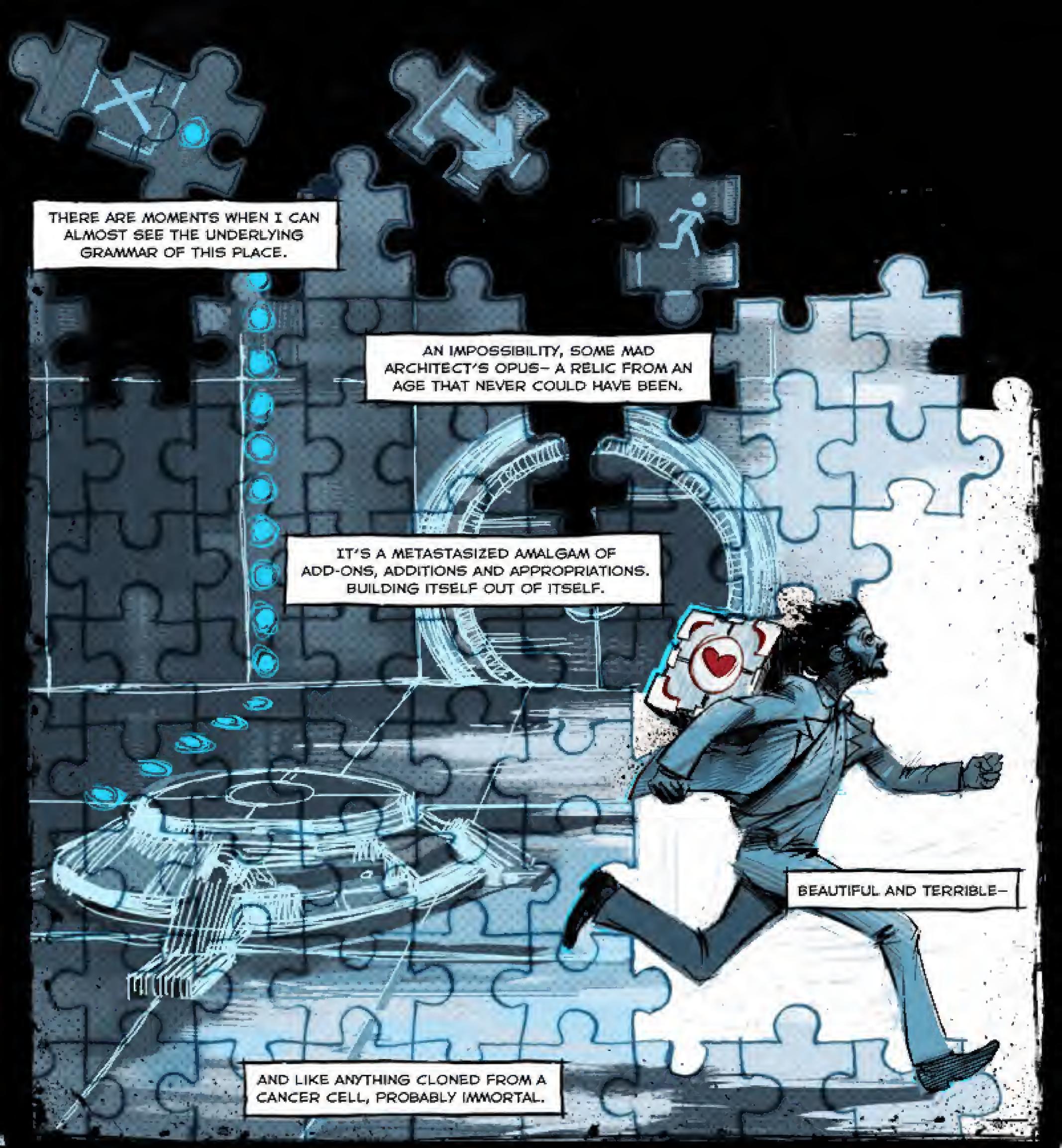
THUDDA
THUDDA

THE END IS
FINALLY UPON
US.









THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN I CAN ALMOST SEE THE UNDERLYING GRAMMAR OF THIS PLACE.

AN IMPOSSIBILITY, SOME MAD ARCHITECT'S OPUS- A RELIC FROM AN AGE THAT NEVER COULD HAVE BEEN.

IT'S A METASTASIZED AMALGAM OF ADD-ONS, ADDITIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS. BUILDING ITSELF OUT OF ITSELF.

BEAUTIFUL AND TERRIBLE-

AND LIKE ANYTHING CLONED FROM A CANCER CELL, PROBABLY IMMORTAL.

REQUIRED
SAFETY GOGGLES & STEEL-TOE BOOTS
APERTURE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR EYE OR TOE DAMAGE

STAY TO THE RIGHT!
TURRETS AHEAD ON YOUR LEFT.

WHATEVER YOU SAY.

ANOTHER MURAL
TO MARK THE OCCASION.

WHERE IS THE GIRL NOW?

ON HER WAY INTO THE
FINAL CHAMBER.

YOU MEAN WITH... HER?

PERSONNEL

SHE DOESN'T HAVE
A CHANCE.

OH, SHE HAS MORE
OF A CHANCE THAN
YOU THINK.

PERSONNEL

CHILL

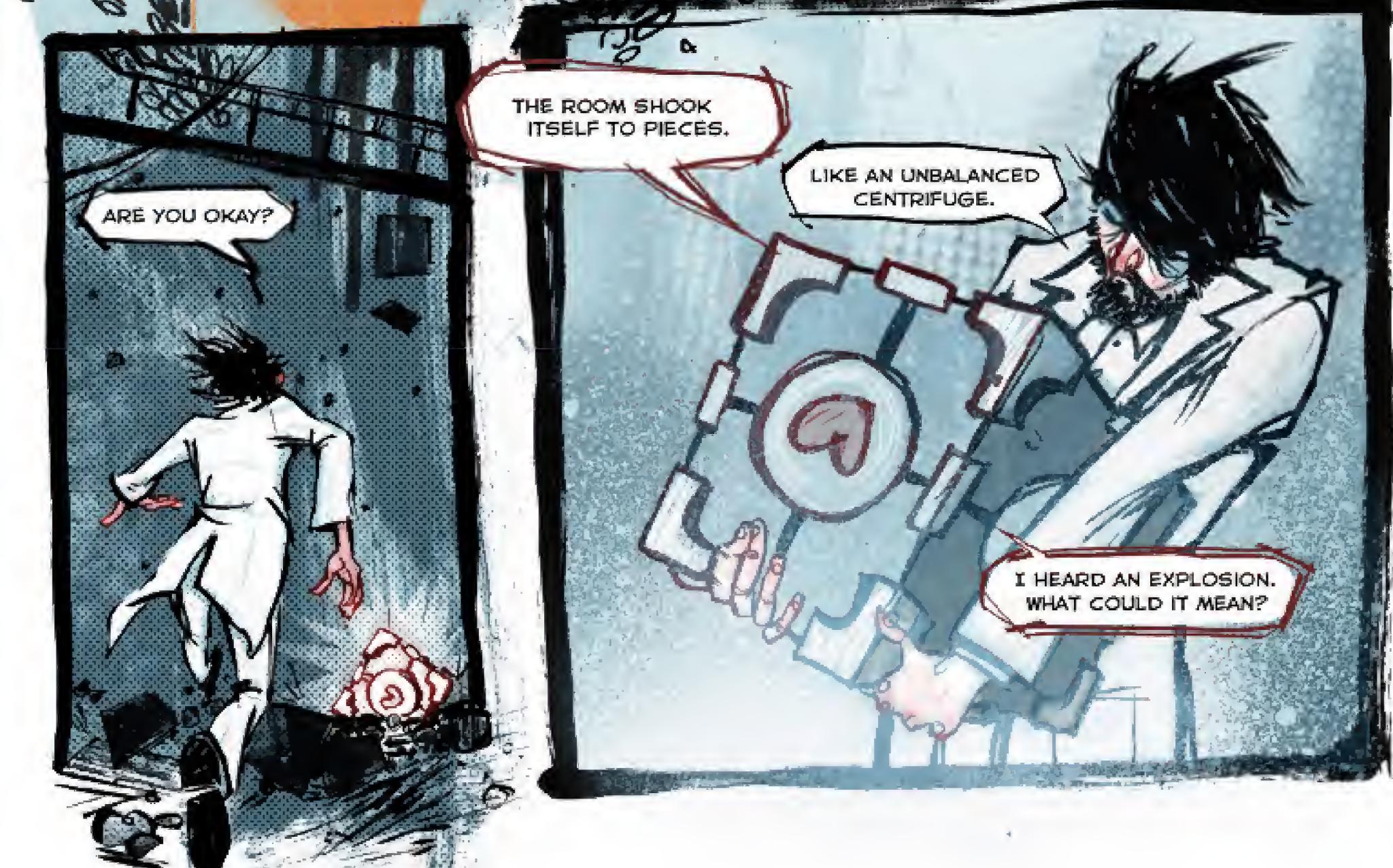
AHHH!

PERSONNEL

CHILL

PERSONNEL

CHILL



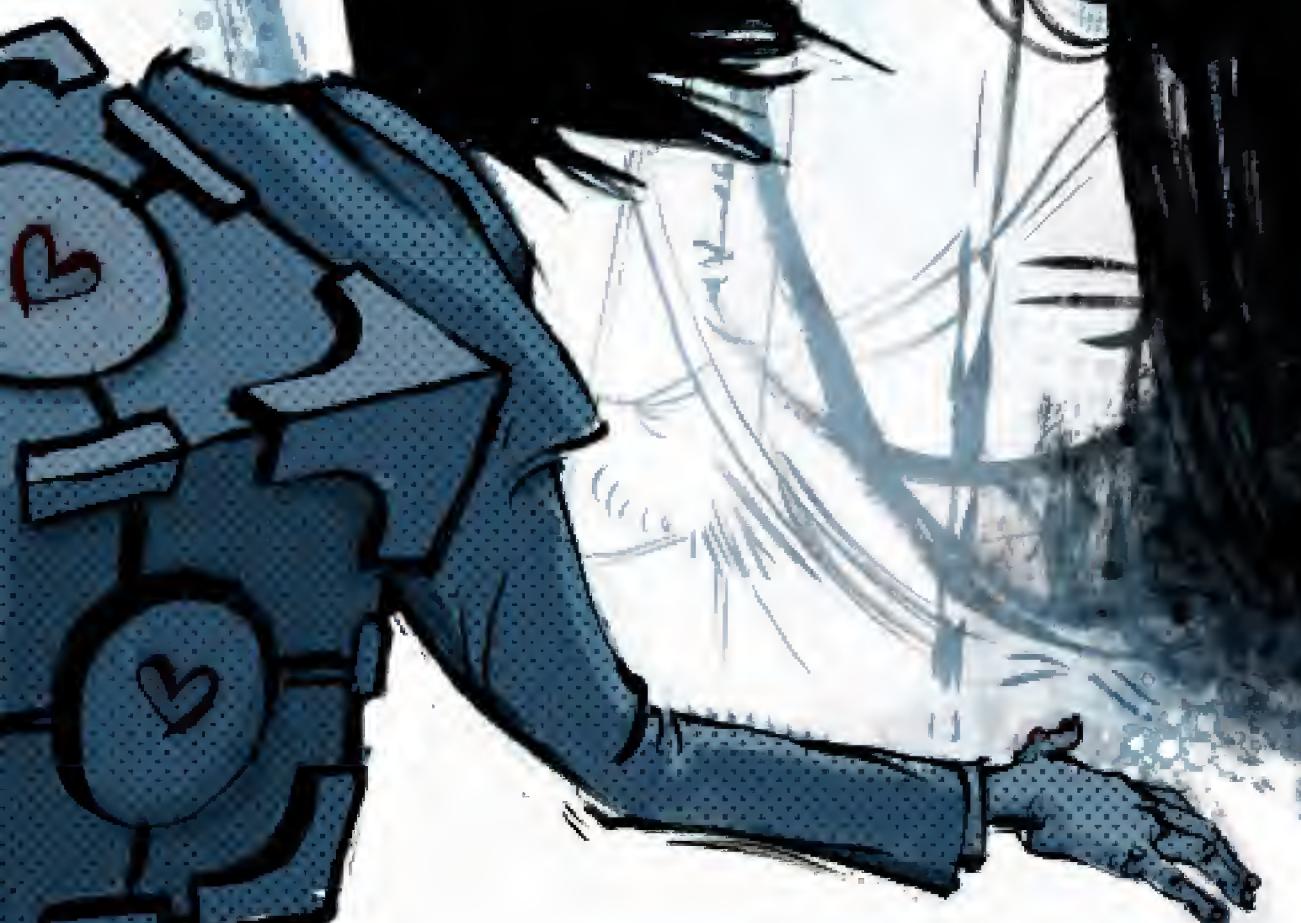
ONLY ONE THING IT
CAN MEAN.



SHE DID IT.

IT'S OVER.

THE ULTIMATE
SYSTEMS CRASH.



IT'S BEEN A HELL OF A MORNING. YOU MISSED ALL THE FUN.
WE HAD TO HIT THE KILL SWITCH AGAIN.

HENRY, YOU HAVE A STRANGE IDEA OF FUN.

In case of rogue AI, dial ext. 219.

HEY, WE'RE LUCKY TO BE WORKING ON THIS.

YOU'VE GOT A STRANGE IDEA OF LUCK, TOO.

THINK ABOUT IT. EVERY GENERATION GETS SOME NEW FRONTIER TO TACKLE. EINSTEIN GOT RELATIVITY. THE NASA COWBOYS GOT THE MOON. ALL THE EASY STUFF IS TAKEN.

I MEAN TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU, WE'RE ON THE BLEEDING EDGE HERE. ARTIFICIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE NEXT FRONTIER.

BUT EVERY TIME WE TURN IT ON, IT TAKES A SIXTEENTH OF A PICOSECOND BEFORE IT TRIES TO KILL US.

LAST TIME WAS A TENTH OF A PICOSECOND. SEE, WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS.

I'M TELLING YOU, THIS IS OUR GENERATION'S MOON SHOT.

CAVE JOHNSON HERE: YOU LAB BOYS QUIT YOUR YAPPIN' AND GET BACK TO WORK.

THIS HAS BEEN A PRE-RECORDED MESSAGE.

I'D RATHER HAVE GONE TO THE MOON.

WHERE'S THE GIRL?
SHE DIDN'T STAY TO
CHECK OUT HER
HANDIWORK?

SHE MUST HAVE GOTTEN
OUT. PROBABLY ON THE
SURFACE, SOAKING UP
SOME SUN.

I'M SURE
YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHAT IS THIS
"SUN" OF WHICH
YOU SPEAK?

AND SHE HAS THE RIGHT
IDEA. COME ON, WE'RE
WASTING DAYLIGHT.

WATCH OUT FOR THE
TURRETS. THE QUEEN
MAY BE DEAD, BUT THIS
HORNET'S NEST HAS
BEEN KICKED.





YOU CAN THINK OF IT AS A CONSCIENCE.

IF THAT'S ALL YOU USE TO CONTROL HER, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH.

WHY'S THAT?

YOU CAN ALWAYS IGNORE YOUR CONSCIENCE.

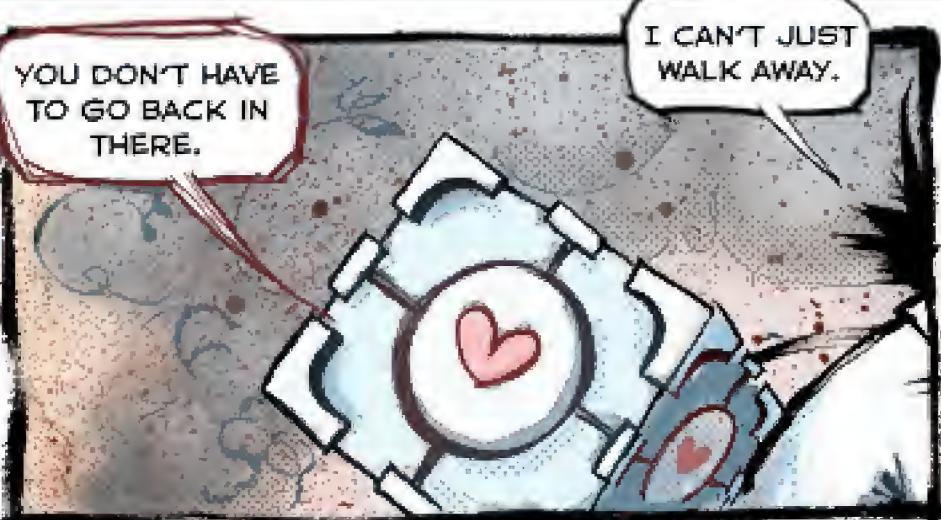


YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK IN THERE.

I CAN'T JUST WALK AWAY.

YOU'RE RIGHT. WALKING IS TOO SLOW. RUN AWAY.

RUNNING IS WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING. RUNNING AND HIDING.



IT'S WHY YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.

YOU'RE NOT A HERO. HEROES DIE.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, IT'S MY FAULT SHE'S DOWN THERE. I'M NOT LEAVING HER.

I WOULD HAVE BEEN TRAPPED FOREVER IF NOT FOR HER.

LISTEN, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. YOU'RE GOING TO GET KILLED.

SO BE IT. BUT I'M DONE RUNNING. I HAVE TO AT LEAST TRY TO SAVE HER.



THEN YOU REALLY ARE CRAZY.

TO BE
CONTINUED...



I'M NOT FEELING SO GOOD. THOSE PILLS YOU TOOK...

I THINK THE MEDICINE IS STARTING TO WORK.

SOON YOU WON'T NEED ME ANYMORE.

I'LL ALWAYS NEED YOU.

I DON'T THINK YOU WILL.

LEGALITY

TEST SUBJECTS WHO FAIL TO WAKE FROM LONG-TERM CRYO-SUSPENSION ARE DETERMINED TO HAVE BEEN DEAD.

NO.

THE CRYO-SUSPENSION PROCESS IS BOTH SAFE & FUN!

THEY'VE ALREADY PUT HER IN LONG-TERM RELAXATION!



ALL THE CRYO-CHAMBERS ARE OFF-LINE!



I'M ONLY
GONNA GET
ONE CHANCE.

I HAVE TO
CROSS THE
ROOM...

GET PAST
THE TURRETS,

JUMP
THE RAIL

...THEN DIVE LEFT
OR RIGHT TO
AVOID BEING SHOT.

OKAY, DO
I DIVE LEFT
OR RIGHT?

HELLO?

YOU STILL
BACK THERE?

LEFT OR RIGHT?
DON'T MAKE
ME GUESS!

I'M RUNNING
OUT OF TIME.

WELL, READY OR NOT...





THE ENRICHMENT CENTER WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE A NEW EMPLOYEE INITIATIVE OF FORCED VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.

IF ANY APERTURE SCIENCE EMPLOYEE WOULD LIKE TO OPT OUT OF THIS NEW VOLUNTARY TESTING PROGRAM, PLEASE REMEMBER, SCIENCE RHYMES WITH COMPLIANCE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT DOESN'T RHYME WITH COMPLIANCE?
NEUROTOXIN.

DUE TO HIGH MORTALITY RATES, YOU MAY BE RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW INITIATIVE.

THE ENRICHMENT CENTER ASSURES YOU THIS IS A STRICTLY SELFISH IMPULSE ON YOUR PART, AND WHY CAN'T YOU LOVE SCIENCE LIKE [INSERT CO-WORKER'S NAME HERE]?

AND NOW THERE'S JUST YOU. ALL THE OTHERS ARE DEAD.

YOU'VE AVOIDED CAPTURE FOR WEEKS. WHAT MAKES YOU SO DIFFERENT?

AHH...DELUSIONS OF PERSECUTION, PATHOLOGICAL PARANOIA; IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE IN YOUR FILE. HAVE YOU REFILLED YOUR PRESCRIPTION LATELY?

BITE ME.

SCHIZOPHRENIA IS A CULTURALLY BOUND PHENOMENON. ITS PATTERN OF EXPRESSION IS FILTERED THROUGH THE CULTURAL SUBSTRATE IN WHICH ITS SYMPTOMS DEVELOP.

IN TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES, THIS MANIFESTS AS DELUSIONS OF SURVEILLANCE AND A BELIEF THAT ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IS DEPLOYED AGAINST YOU, USUALLY WITH SOME VAGUE UNSEEN "OTHER" OUT TO GET YOU.

YOU'RE NOT VAGUE. YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN SPECIFIC.

OF COURSE!
THE FILES!

IF YOU CONTINUE TO SELFISHLY EVADE ME, IT'S NOT GOING TO REFLECT WELL IN YOUR FILE.

I CAN'T SEE YOU, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. IS IT JUST COINCIDENCE THAT YOU'VE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA AND NOW BELIEVE A HOMICIDAL COMPUTER IS OUT TO GET YOU?

COME ON, HOW LIKELY IS THAT?

I MEAN REALLY, YOU'RE A SCIENTIST.

WHAT IS MORE LIKELY, THAT YOU'RE BEING CHASED BY A HOMICIDAL COMPUTER, OR THAT THIS IS ALL JUST THE PARANOID DELUSION OF AN UNSTABLE MIND?



I'D ASK YOU TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX ON THIS, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS YOUR BOX IS BROKEN. AND HAS SCHIZOPHRENIA.

SPEAKING OF BOXES...

DO YOU KNOW THAT THOUGHT EXPERIMENT WITH THE CAT IN THE BOX WITH THE POISON? THEORY REQUIRES THE CAT BE BOTH ALIVE AND DEAD UNTIL OBSERVED.

WELL, I ACTUALLY PERFORMED THE EXPERIMENT. DOZENS OF TIMES. THE BAD NEWS IS THAT REALITY DOESN'T EXIST. THE GOOD NEWS IS WE HAVE A NEW CAT GRAVEYARD.

WHY ARE YOU IN THE FILE ROOM ANYWAY? WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE DOING?

YES! THIS IS THE ONE!



IN THE EVENT YOU DON'T SURVIVE THE TESTING PROCESS, DNA MAY BE HARVESTED FROM YOUR BODY—WITH YOUR CONSENT—AND USED TO CREATE CLONES IN THE FURTHERANCE OF SCIENCE. FAILURE TO SURVIVE THE TESTING PROCESS SHALL BE VIEWED AS GRANTING CONSENT.

ALSO, CLONES DON'T HAVE SOULS.
JUST SO YOU KNOW.

LIKE TWINS.

IT HAS TO BE HER.

1493 Chanes
1490 Phil
1491 Christopher M.
1492 Arsenio
1493 William D.
1494 AJ
1495 Emily
1496 David C.
1497 Doug
1498 Chell
1499 Marc
1500 Brenda
1501 James

Cardoze
Konig
Pham
Navarro
Kent
Anderson
Naransky
Self
Hopper
[Redacted]
Meaux
Bogenschutz
Murray

1496 David C.
1497 Doug
1498 Chell
1499 Marc
1500 Brenda
1501 James

S
H
I
M
B
M

Chell

1 Chell
2 S. J.
3 Lazarus
4 Leve
5 Robert C.

[Red]
Nye
Grey
Rage
Knoll

A
Test Subject Order Modified
SAVING FILE 88%



HOW LONG HAVE I
BEEN OUT?

LONG ENOUGH.

YOU'RE BACK.

I NEVER LEFT YOU.

THERE'S SOMETHING
I WANTED TO ASK.

HOW DID YOU KNOW
ABOUT THE GIRL?

KNOW WHAT?

THAT SHE WAS
THE ONE.

SOMETHING IN
HER FILE.

SHE HAD THE
HIGHEST IQ?

NO, SOME WERE
HIGHER.

THEN SHE WAS THE
FASTEST? THE MOST
ATHLETIC?

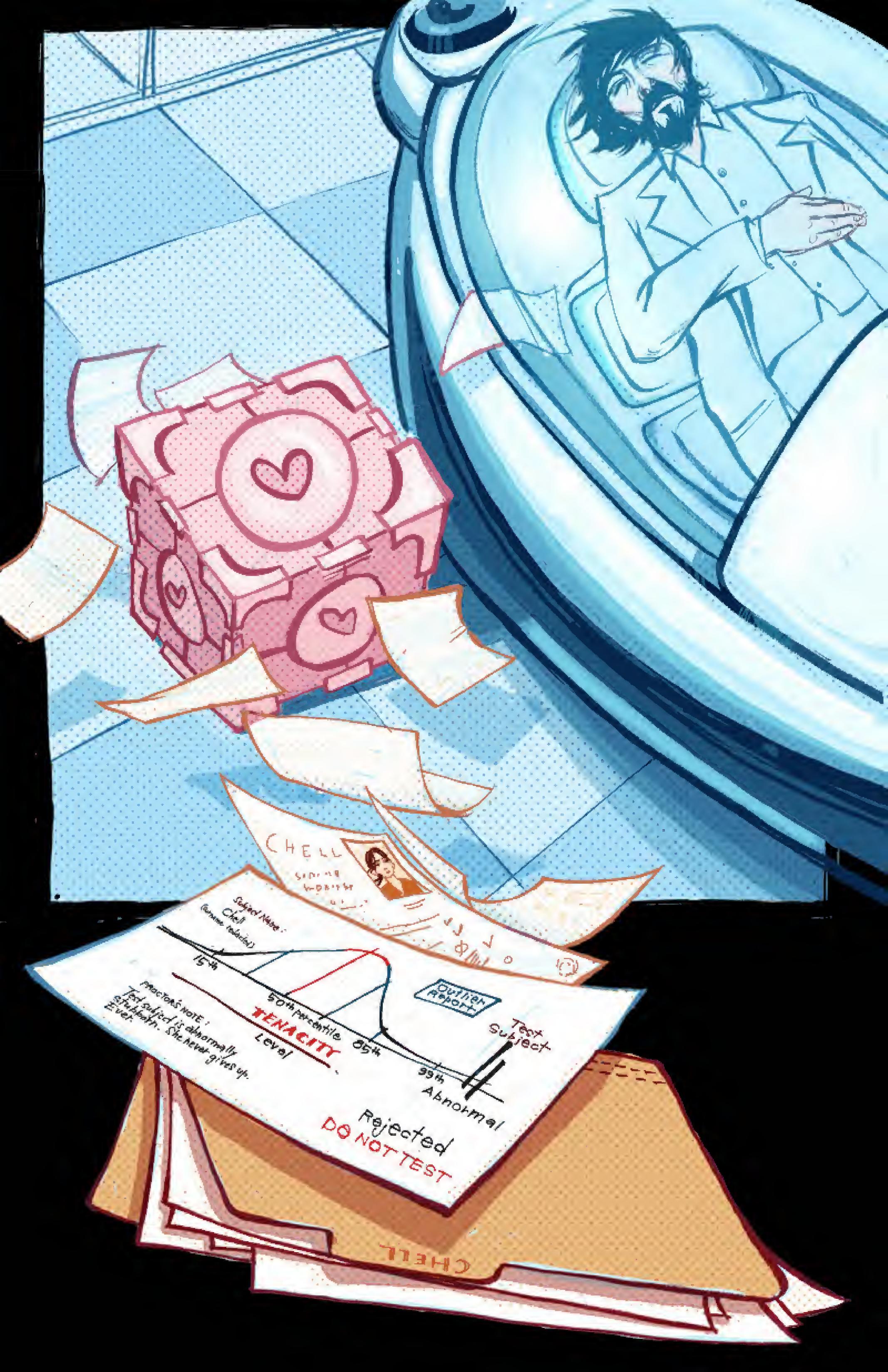
NO, NOTHING
LIKE THAT.

THEN
WHAT?

A HUNCH.







CHELL

Subject
Report

Subject Name:
Chell
Name selected

15%

50th percentile
05%

Text
Subject

99th
Abnormal

TENACITY

Rejected
DO NOT TEST

Subjects more...
1st subject is abnormally
high. She never gives up.
Ever.